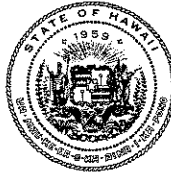


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

PATRICIA HAMAMOTO
SUPERINTENDENT

PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION

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FILE

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

October 6, 2004

Mr. Carlito Caliboso, Chairman
State of Hawaii Public Utilities Commission
465 South King Street, First Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Caliboso:

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment for Hawaiian Electric Company's
East Oahu Transmission Project, Honolulu

The Department of Education (DOE) is concerned that the Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) project to reconfigure transmission lines will impact three schools in the Honolulu District by displacing school facilities and limiting access. The Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the project identifies impacts but indicates that personal contact had only been made with one of the principals of the affected schools.

The DOE requests that your plans and their impacts on each of the three schools be discussed with each of their respective principals at this early stage in planning. Among the issues that would need to be discussed is use of school facilities such as parking lots and playgrounds. Although the DEA mentions that efforts will be made to schedule construction activity during school vacation periods, those periods are becoming increasingly shorter and can vary from year to year depending on the schedule for summer school, etc.

The DOE would like to be assured that if the directional drilling operation takes place on or near school lands that the drilling, slurry extraction, and on-site settling and containment pits do not affect school building foundations or pose a flooding threat.

Finally, the DOE would request that pedestrian and car access plans are worked out with the principals of the three affected schools to insure that temporary traffic patterns do not jeopardize students walking or bicycling to school. In turn, the principals could be of assistance in informing their constituencies about temporary changes in traffic and access.

Mr. Carlito Caliboso

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The DOE appreciates this opportunity to review your plans but requests that more detailed planning be conducted with the principals of Lunalilo Elementary, McKinley High, and Washington Middle schools.

If you have any questions, please call Rae Loui, Assistant Superintendent of the Office of Business Services, at 586-3444 or Heidi Meeker of the Facilities and Support Services Branch at 733-4862.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia Hamamoto".

Patricia Hamamoto
Superintendent

PH:jmb

c: Rae Loui, OBS
 Dr. Raelene Chock, CAS, McKinley/Roosevelt Complex Area
 Estelle Wong, CAS, Kaimuki/Kalani Complex Area
 Michael Harano, Principal, Washington Middle School
 Dean Nakamoto, Principal, Lunalilo Elementary School
 Milton Shishido, Principal, McKinley High School
 Lesley A. Matsumoto, Belt Collins